implementation of Embryo Transfer Technol- ogy for Preservation of indigenous breeds. Following funds wre released during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000:—

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	EFST	NBPP	PTP
1997-98	2550	500	120.68
1998-99	552	8	58.00
1999-2K	2499.97	709.98	95.72
TOTAL	5601.97	1217.98	274.40

Agricultural Policy

†4884. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any date has been fixed by Government for announcing a new agricultural policy in the country;

(b) if so, what is that date;

(c) if not, the reasons for further delay in the announcement of new agricultural policy; and

(d) whether Government will fix any time-limit in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK STYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The national Agriculture Policy is in final stage of drafting and is likely to be announced shortly, it is, therefore, not necessary to fix a time-limit for its announcement.

Facilities for production of Agricultural and Horticultural Items in Himachal Pradesh

4885. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what are the facilities provided to farmers by Government in Himachal Pradesh to increase the production of agricultural and horticultural items in the State, district-wise;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to provide agricultural implements and machines under various crop specific programmes in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The major facilities being provided by Government to farmers in all districts of Himachal Pradesh to increase the production of agricultural and horticultural items are the following:—

1. Arranging training and demonstrations on the latest production technologies for various crops,
2. Providing incentives and concessions on various agricultural inputs covering seeks, fertilizers, plant protection materials and agricultural implements and tools, including sprinkler irrigation/ drip irrigation systems.

(c) Under the crop specific programmes, efforts are being made to make available suitable agricultural implements and machinery at reasonable prices well before the commencement of crop season. Special concessions exist also for SC/ST and other backward farmers.

Fund Allotment for Agricultural Development during Ninth Plan

†4886. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted funds for the development of agriculture and other activities related to it during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the total funds allocated in this regard?

(c) whether the amount has been spent out of it till March, 2000; and

(d) if so, the amount so spent?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.